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the provisions of this endowment. Mr. BURNS received his bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota in 1903. From June, 1904, to September, 1907, he was assistant in the Lick Observatory, with principal duties in connection with Dr. CAMPBELL's program for determining stellar radial velocities. Returning to the University of Minnesota in September, 1907, he received from that institution the degree of doctor of philosophy in 1910, the subject of his thesis being "A Photographic Study of the Region of the Great Nebula in *Orion.*" For the past year he has again held the position of assistant in the Lick Observatory.

Dr. BURNS's appointment as Martin Kellogg Fellow dates from August 15, 1911, and it is his intention to sail for Europe on August 12th. He will devote the year mainly to studies in spectroscopy, and will visit many of the principal observatories of Europe.

It is a special pleasure to add that he will be accompanied by Mrs. BURNS, who, as Miss HAZEL V. BUNNEY, has spent the past year as special assistant in the Lick Observatory.

R. G. AITKEN.

July, 1911.

NOTE ON THE EARTHQUAKE OF JULY 1, 1911.

The earthquake of July 1, 1911, was in some respects the most severe one experienced since the observatory was founded. The amplitude of vibration was less than in the shock of April 18, 1906, and the duration was much less, but the motion was more violent.

Fortunately, the telescopes and other instruments of the observatory suffered no injury, with the exception of the Riefler clock. The steel springs in the pendulum support of this clock were broken, allowing the pendulum to fall and break the air-tight glass case. The 36-inch telescope was moved about three quarters of an inch to the south, the great base plate slipping on the masonry pier. The telescope was put into position again promptly and without difficulty, and has suffered no harm whatever. It stood entirely idle for one night only. The other telescopes were not affected.

The damage to the buildings on Mount Hamilton consists mainly of broken plaster and cracked chimneys, with the exception of the large brick residence which stands directly east of the main observatory building. The earthquake vibration bulged the north and south walls of this building and produced shear cracks in all walls, particularly around windows. Extensive repairs will be necessary to make it entirely safe. It should, however, be said that the construction of this house did not specially fit it to withstand earthquake vibration, and that the walls had been weakened by the shocks of 1903 and 1906. The walls of the other brick residences on the mountain were uninjured.

Notes on the time and intensity of the shock will be found elsewhere in this number.

R. G. AITKEN.

July, 1911.

NOTES FROM THE MOUNT WILSON SOLAR OBSERVATORY.

Construction work on Mount Wilson has been in active progress since April and will be continued until the opening of the rainy season. The Snow telescope house is being reconstructed to a considerable extent, with a view to rendering it essentially fire-proof. The canvas louvres on the outside of the building, as well as the canvas inside walls, are being replaced with sheet steel painted white, and a steel roof, with ventilators at intervals, will take the place of the old wooden roof. A concrete floor is being laid through the entire building, and a considerable number of changes are being made in the arrangement of the electric wiring and the controls on the switch-board.

Additional work during the summer will include a two-inch high-pressure water system to be used in case of fire, a large water reservoir, and the installation of storage tanks to contain a sufficient amount of distillate for the power plant throughout the winter months.

Work has also been started on the foundations for the 100-inch reflecting telescope. The site for this instrument is a ridge to the north of the 60-inch dome, the nature of the ground being well adapted for the ends in view. During the summer the grading upon this site will be completed and the small piers to carry the elevated tracks upon which will slide